

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BOB KEENAN**, on January 11, 2001 at 5:45 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Bob Keenan, Chairman (R)
Sen. Ken Miller, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)
Sen. William Crismore (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)
Sen. Royal Johnson (R)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)
Sen. Arnie Mohl (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Corey Stapleton (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)
Sen. Jack Wells (R)
Sen. Tom Zook (R)

Members Excused: Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Jon Moe, Legislative Fiscal Division

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 1, 1/9/2001
Executive Action: HB 1; SB 113; SB 133; SB 172

HEARING ON HB 1

Sponsor:

SEN. KEENAN, SD 38, Bigfork introduced HB 1 for **REP. STEVE VICK, HD 31, Belgrade**, who could not be present. HB 1 is the "feed bill."

Proponents:

Lois Menzies, Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division presented a summary of the feed bill (HB 1).

EXHIBIT (fcs08a01)

This bill appropriates funds for the operation of the legislature and covers three different years. It covers costs for the 2001 session, for interim expenses, and start-up costs for the 2003 session. The total amount appropriated from the general fund is 6.7 million dollars. She listed the expenses covered by the bill and the factors that contributed to the 20.4% increase over the 1999 feed bill (increases in legislator salaries, per diem, health insurance and attache salaries). She also explained the new items funded (orientation and training and six months insurance coverage for term-limited legislators) and the budget summaries comprising the appropriations.

Opponents: None.

Questions from Committee members and answers.

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked about the increase for health insurance. **Lois Menzies** explained that part of the increase was the result of medical inflation that is inflicted upon all plans. Some of it may be attributed to usage, but there has been a draw down of the reserves for the self-funded plan and that now it is necessary to shore up the plan by making sure adequate premiums are collected.

SEN. WELLS asked about the funding increase that was due to returning attaches. **Lois Menzies** clarified that if a session employee comes back, that employee can advance a step on this pay plan so that an employee who has been employed five years would be able to reach market as defined in the executive branch pay plan.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. KEENAN closed on HB 1.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 1

Motion/Vote: SEN. BECK moved that HB 1 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried 17-1 with SEN. MOHL voting no.

SEN. KEENAN stated that he had passed out committee rules of procedure for the Finance committee. He said that he conferred with SEN. JERGESON on the rules and other input would be welcome. **EXHIBIT (fcs08a02)**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 113

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that SB 113 DO PASS. Motion carried 18-0.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 133

Motion: SEN. JERGESON moved that SB 133 DO PASS.

SEN. JERGESON introduced an amendment to SB 133. SB 133 would change the names of a variety of funds to reflect changes in generally accepted accounting principle standards. The amendment deals with one that didn't need to be changed. **EXHIBIT (fcs08a03)**

Motion/Vote: SEN. JERGESON moved that the AMENDMENT TO SB 133 (SB013301.ajm) DO PASS. Motion carried 18-0.

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked **Cathy Muri** about the Housing Trust Fund and whether or not that will be one of the private purpose trusts. He asked if she had been able to find out by talking to the Board of Housing. He further explained his question-- whether or not the Housing Trust Fund which was passed last session and placed in the Board of Housing would change so that the legislature would be looking at those funds each time under the private purpose trust or if the funds would be handled totally under the Board of Housing. **Cathy Muri** indicated that she did talk to **Bruce Brensda**l from the Board of Housing who stated that the Housing Trust Fund that was set up last session is actually a state special revenue fund.

Vote: SEN. JERGESON motion that SB 133 DO PASS as amended carried 18-0.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 172

Motion: SEN. JOHNSON MOVED THAT SB 172 BE ADOPTED.

Motion: SEN. JOHNSON MOVED TO AMEND SB 172 (SB017201.ajm)
EXHIBIT (fcs08a04)

Vote: MOTION by SEN. JOHNSON TO AMEND SB 172 carried 18-0.

Vote: Motion by SEN. JOHNSON that SB 172 DO PASS AS AMENDED
carried 18-0.

SEN. KEENAN discussed his suggestion that the Senate Finance and Claims Committee be changed to the Senate Finance Committee. The change has gone through the process of the Rules Committee. There are several references in statute to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. **SEN. KEENAN** asked for a Committee bill, which would take fourteen favorable votes (3/4 of the committee) to introduce a Committee bill to make those changes in statute.

Motion: SEN. MCCARTHY moved TO INTRODUCE A COMMITTEE BILL TO CHANGE THE REFERENCES IN LAW FROM SENATE FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE TO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Vote: Motion carried 18-0.

Discussion was held regarding the next meeting and the sound system in meeting room 303. **SEN. WATERMAN** then asked about the Committee Rules of Procedure and whether votes would be open for 24 hours--if members can vote within 24 hours of an absence.

SEN. JERGESON said that there are three ways a vote is recorded--yes, no or absent. There would be a change in a vote in the record from absent to being yes or no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:23 P.M.

SEN. BOB KEENAN, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

BK/PG

EXHIBIT (fcs08aad)